

Congressman Led Effort for Emergency Federal Funding, Says More Needs to Be Done to Save and Create Jobs, Announces \$1 Million Grant for Ulster County BOCES

Kingston, NY - Just hours before returning to Washington to cast his vote on legislation to provide crucial federal funding to save jobs for educators, firefighters, nurses and police, Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today announced his intention to vote in favor of the bill and detailed how it would benefit New York. The congressman also highlighted his support for a more comprehensive and aggressive bill to create jobs and give a needed boost to the economy.

"This federal funding is going to save the jobs of 161,000 teachers across the country," said Hinchey as he stood shoulder to shoulder with over 20 area educators on the steps of Kingston High School. "It will also extend a provision of the Recovery Act to provide \$2.2 billion in Medicaid assistance for New York, allowing the state to prevent planned layoffs for firefighters, nurses and police. At a time when cash strapped states and local governments are facing the prospect of widespread layoffs of teachers, firefighters, nurses and police, these funds will provide the needed support to get through tough times."

In a rare move, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi announced that she was calling the House back from its August recess in order to vote on the measure, which is fully paid for in part by closing tax loopholes that encourage corporations to ship American jobs overseas. After months of legislative wrangling, the Senate finally overcame a Republican-led filibuster last week to pass a scaled back version of the bill that had already been passed by the House. In April, Hinchey led a group of 51 House members in calling on Senate leaders to schedule a vote as soon as possible on legislation to provide the funding.

"This is something that I have been focused on for a long time," said Hinchey. "While I am pleased that the Senate was finally able to break through the obstructionist tactics perpetrated by a handful of its members, I am concerned that the bill they passed does not go far enough. The legislation I have been fighting for would have saved a lot more jobs and would have had a much greater economic impact. Nevertheless, this represents a major step in the right direction, and I am hopeful we will be able to do much more in the future to better the economic circumstances for people in the Hudson Valley and across the country."

Hinchey also announced that he helped secure a \$1 million teaching American history grant from U.S. Department of Education for Ulster County BOCES. The grant will serve a total of 167 teachers and support the teaching and learning of American history through professional development and training, as well as curriculum expansion and development.

In May, Hinchey led a group of 106 House members in support of an effort to provide emergency funding to save 250,000 education related jobs. In a letter to House Appropriations Chairman David Obey (D-WI), the group offered its strong support for the inclusion of the \$23 billion provision in an emergency supplemental appropriations bill. The provision passed in the House, but was stripped out of the bill in the Senate. The Senate then proceeded with an effort to pass the scaled back version of the bill that is now before the House. Hinchey said the House should move forward with the Senate's bill, but noted the Congress should continue working for a more comprehensive bill.

Last year, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which Hinchey strongly supported and voted to pass, provided more than \$100 billion for states to support their public school systems. This funding has been credited with creating and retaining more than 300,000 education-related jobs, including positions for teachers, nurses, bus drivers and custodians. Hinchey said it also helped states avoid a budget crisis that would have resulted in significant cuts to school system budgets.